

# ROCHESTER'S IMPENDING STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## Part V – A Closer Look at the Construction Industry Requirements

Of the six minimum control measures (MCMs) that Rochester is required to address in its storm water permit, two are particularly applicable to the construction industry: MCM #4 (construction site runoff control) and MCM #5 (post-construction storm water management).

To address MCM #4, the storm water permit requires that Rochester must develop, implement, and enforce an erosion sediment and control program that will reduce runoff pollution coming from construction activities on sites that disturb one or more acres of land (and on sites less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale). Sediment is a particularly damaging pollutant not only because it alters aquatic habitats, but because it also acts as a “pollutant taxi” that catches and carries chemical pollutants to receiving waters, such as the Zumbro River.

Specifically, the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) must include the following:

- ☞ Effective regulatory mechanisms that require erosion and sediment controls and sanctions to ensure compliance;
- ☞ Requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- ☞ Requirements for construction site operators to control construction site waste and debris that may impact water quality;
- ☞ Procedures for site plan review that incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts;
- ☞ Procedures to receive and consider reports of non compliance or other information by the public on construction related issues; and
- ☞ Procedures for site inspection and enforcement of erosion and sedimentation control BMPs.

Developers, builders, and contractors are already familiar with erosion and sediment control measures required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Construction Permit for sites larger than five acres. ***As of March 10, 2003, this threshold has dropped to one acre.*** MPCA has provided guidance to obtain Construction Permits between now and 12/31/03, when their revised permit application will be ready. It can be found at on their web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-strm2-40.pdf>).

The MPCA Construction Permit requirements are in addition to the City's obligations under their storm water permit.

Post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment projects is addressed under MCM #5. Under this provision, Rochester must develop, implement, and enforce a program to address runoff from completed new development and redevelopment projects. This will again apply to sites one acre or larger and to sites less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale.

Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (like wetlands) or the use of structural best management practices such as storm water ponds. The chosen controls must reduce not only the higher volumes, but also the higher

discharge rates resulting from increased amounts of impervious surface. They must also provide for retention or treatment of the pollutants in the runoff so as to prevent or minimize water quality impacts. Rochester must also develop effective regulatory mechanisms and insure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of BMPs installed as a result of these requirements. This concept is not new to area Developers who have been constructing storm water ponds since the early 1990s.

Next month, ideas will be shared about what you, as a member of the construction industry and as an individual, can do to protect water quality.

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***“Protecting water quality is everybody's business”***